

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 4, 8, 10, 12, 15, 19 and 21 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An image recording apparatus, comprising:
a coding/decoding part performing coding and decoding a given signal in one of a plurality of coding/decoding modes of different bit rates;
a recording medium coupled with said coding/decoding part; and
a control part setting a predetermined bit rate to be applied by said coding/decoding part in case the given signal is output after being coded and decoded by said coding/decoding part without storage thereof in said recording medium.

2. (ORIGINAL) The image recording apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the predetermined bit rate is that on such a mode of the plurality of coding/decoding modes as to provide the highest image quality.

3. (ORIGINAL) The image recording apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the predetermined bit rate is further higher than that on such a mode of the plurality of coding/decoding modes as to provide the highest image quality.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An image recording apparatus, comprising:
a coding/decoding part performing coding and decoding a given signal in one of a plurality of coding/decoding modes of different bit rates;
a recording medium coupled with said coding/decoding part; and
a control part automatically setting a predetermined bit rate to be applied by said coding/decoding part according to a predetermined parameter concerning recording of the given signal to be recorded into said recording medium.

5. (ORIGINAL) The image recording apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein:
the predetermined parameter includes a remaining storage capacity A (bytes) of said recording medium; a time T (seconds) of recording reserved; a maximum available recording bit rate R_{max} (bps); and a minimum available recording bit rate R_{min} (bps); and
said control part determines the bit rate R (bps) by which the recording is performed such as that satisfying the following formula:

$$T \times R/8 \leq A$$

wherein, R = R_{max} when R > R_{max}; and
R = R_{min} when R < R_{min}.

6. (ORIGINAL) The image recording apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein:
the predetermined parameter includes a remaining storage capacity A (bytes) of said recording medium; and
said control part lowers the bit rate by which the recording is performed when the remaining storage capacity A is less than a predetermined value.

7. (ORIGINAL) The image recording apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein:
the predetermined parameter includes a remaining storage capacity A (bytes) of said recording medium; a time T (seconds) of recording reserved; and a minimum available recording bit rate R_{min} (bps); and
said control part determines the bit rate R (bps) by which the recording is performed such as that satisfying the following formula:

$$T \times R/8 \leq A$$

wherein R = R_{min} when R < R_{min}.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An image recording apparatus, comprising:
a coding/decoding part performing coding and decoding a given signal in one of a plurality of coding/decoding modes of different bit rates;
a recording medium coupled with said coding/decoding part; and
a control part causing an input image signal to be automatically recorded into said recording medium even if no instructions for recording the input image signal is given, and causing the image signal thus recorded into the recording medium to be accessible when predetermined instructions concerning the image signal is given.
9. (ORIGINAL) The image recording apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein said control part does not perform the automatic recording of the image signal when the remaining storage capacity of the recording medium is less than a predetermined value.
10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The image recording apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein said control part causes the image signal to be automatically recorded into a file, which a user cannot access, of the recording medium.
11. (ORIGINAL) The image recording apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein control information concerning the image signal is divided and recorded into the recording medium in a directory area thereof and also an area thereof in which the image signal is stored separately.
12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A semiconductor device, comprising:
a coding/decoding circuit performing coding and decoding a given signal in one of a plurality of coding/decoding modes of different bit rates; and
a control circuit setting a predetermined bit rate to be applied by said coding/decoding circuit in case the given signal is output after being coded and decoded by said coding/decoding part without storage thereof in a predetermined recording medium.
13. (ORIGINAL) The semiconductor device as claimed in claim 12, wherein the predetermined bit rate is that of such a mode of the plurality of coding/decoding modes as to provide the highest image quality.

14. (ORIGINAL) The semiconductor device as claimed in claim 12, wherein the predetermined bit rate is further higher than that of such a mode of the plurality of coding/decoding modes as to provide the highest image quality.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A semiconductor device, comprising:
a coding/decoding circuit performing coding and decoding a given signal in one of a plurality of coding/decoding modes of different bit rates; and
a control circuit automatically setting a predetermined bit rate to be applied by said coding/decoding part according to a predetermined parameter concerning recording of the given signal to be recorded into a predetermined recording medium.

16. (ORIGINAL) The semiconductor device as claimed in claim 15, wherein:
the predetermined parameter includes a remaining storage capacity A (bytes) of said recording medium; a time T (seconds) of recording reserved; a maximum available recording bit rate Rmax (bps); and a minimum available recording bit rate Rmin (bps); and
said control circuit determines the bit rate R (bps) by which the recording is performed such as that satisfying the following formula:

$$T \times R/8 \leq A$$

wherein, $R = R_{\max}$ when $R > R_{\max}$; and
 $R = R_{\min}$ when $R < R_{\min}$.

17. (ORIGINAL) The semiconductor device as claimed in claim 15, wherein:
the predetermined parameter includes a remaining storage capacity A (bytes) of said recording medium; and
said control circuit lowers the bit rate by which the recording is performed when the remaining storage capacity A is less than a predetermined value.

18. (ORIGINAL) The semiconductor device as claimed in claim 15, wherein:
the predetermined parameter includes a remaining storage capacity A (bytes) of said recording medium; a time T (seconds) of recording reserved; and a minimum available recording bit rate Rmin (bps); and

said control circuit determines the bit rate R (bps) by which the recording is performed such as that satisfying the following formula:

$$T \times R/8 \leq A$$

wherein $R = R_{\min}$ when $R < R_{\min}$.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A semiconductor device, comprising:
a coding/decoding circuit performing coding and decoding a given signal in one of a plurality of coding/decoding modes of different bit rates; and
a control circuit causing an input image signal to be automatically recorded into a predetermined recording medium even if no instructions for recording the input image signal is given, and, causing the image signal thus recorded into the recording medium to be accessible when predetermined instructions concerning the image signal is given.

20. (ORIGINAL) The semiconductor device as claimed in claim 19, wherein said control circuit does not perform the automatic recording of the image signal when the remaining storage capacity of the recording medium is less than a predetermined value.

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The semiconductor device as claimed in claim 19, wherein said control circuit causes the image signal to be automatically recorded into a file, which a user cannot access, of the recording medium.

22. (ORIGINAL) The semiconductor device as claimed in claim 19, wherein control information concerning the image signal is divided and recorded into the recording medium in a directory area thereof and an area thereof in which the image signal is stored separately.